

## Certified Operators Soon Required for All Group A Community & NTNC Water Systems

### Experienced, Well-trained Operators Protect Public Health

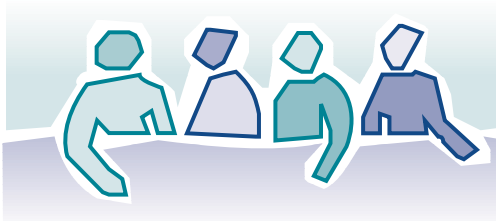
*New state and federal requirements call for at least one certified operator for all Group A community and nontransient noncommunity (NTNC) water systems. This means small water systems currently not required to have a certified operator will have to have one when new state regulations take effect in early 2001.*

*The Department of Health will make this transition as easy as possible by paying some initial certification fees, allowing most existing small system operators to become certified by "grandparenting," and providing free and low-cost training.*

*Most of this issue of Water Tap is devoted to explaining this important expansion of the state's operator certification requirements. We hope this information answers your questions or helps you find where to get answers. We also hope it will make the transition to expanded operator certification go smoothly, so we all reap the benefits of improved public health protection.*

*Inside: Grandparenting helps operators become certified ..... Page 6  
Department supports small system operators by paying their fees ..... Page 5  
Training assists operators in meeting requirements ..... Page 7  
And more!*

## Public Hearings on Proposed Operator Certification Regulations



The Department of Health is proposing revised state regulations (WAC 246-292) to meet federal guidelines on operator certification. These new regulations will be adopted and become effective in early 2001.

Information sessions followed by public hearings on the proposed revisions are planned for:

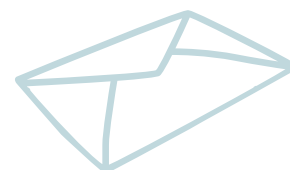
Moses Lake:  
December 6, 2000 at 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Department of Labor and Industries  
3001 W. Broadway Avenue

Tumwater:  
December 8, 2000 at 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Department of Labor and Industries  
7273 Linderson Way SW

Electronic copies of proposed rule revisions are available on the Drinking Water web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw)

For more information or to make written comments before the public hearings, contact:

Lisa Raysby, Drinking Water Division, 360-236-3147

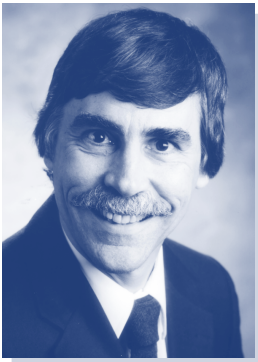


### Watch your mail:

*If under new rules your water system must now have a certified operator, you will receive application materials by mail in October to "grandparent" an existing operator. See Page 6 for details.*

### Drinking Water Seminars Coming Soon!

October 31, Olympia  
November 2, Everett  
November 7, Yakima  
See Page 6 for details.



## New operator certification requirements help assure safe, reliable drinking water in Washington

When new regulations take effect early in 2001, over 2,000 more systems than are currently required to must have certified operators. There will be certified operators for the first time in many smaller water systems, and this will help assure safe, reliable drinking water throughout our state.

Until then, more than 780 public drinking water systems in Washington are already required to have certified operators. Many other systems, recognizing the public health importance of certification, have voluntarily gotten their operators certified even though they haven't in the past been required to do so by state regulations.

Water system operation is a demanding and critical job. The work is technical, complex, and important to customers' safety. Certification helps ensure that water systems are run by experienced, well-trained people as technology, industry, regulatory requirements, and population growth create new challenges.

Many experts have concluded that operator certification is important to public health protection, and that we need to pay particular attention to small systems. Our experience in Washington bears that out. Fifteen percent of small systems in Washington have red operating permits. Many of these systems may have problems that pose risks to their customers' health. Operating under a red permit is expensive and time-consuming, for operators, regulators and customers. Most of the division's resources are involved in enforcement actions related to poorly operated systems.

Well-trained operators help ensure that the water delivered is safe to drink. They do appropriate sampling, keep accurate records, and know the regulations well. They anticipate problems rather than just reacting to them. They see problems early and act to resolve them. They notify customers quickly if there are problems, and they know where to get technical assistance when they need it.

Well-trained operators also keep costs down. They properly maintain equipment so it lasts longer and breaks down less often. They use less chemicals and minimize pumping costs. They spend less time dealing with customer complaints.

The Department of Health is helping support expanded operator certification in many ways, including paying some fees for systems and individuals, providing a "grandparenting" opportunity, offering free and low-cost training, and developing additional communication tools to help people understand new requirements and keep up-to-date on training opportunities and other developments.

Please join us in doing everything we can to understand these new requirements, put them into effect, and maintain the ongoing training and education that are critical to success.



### What The Experts Say

A 1998 study by the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators found that operator certification was one of two management practices that correlated most strongly with fewer coliform detections in drinking water - the other being correction of deficiencies identified by sanitary surveys.

# Operator Certification - Newly Affected Systems and Operators: Questions and Answers

## *Why do water systems need certified operators?*

Experienced, well-trained operators help ensure that the water delivered by public water systems is safe to drink. New Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines require that all Group A community and nontransient, noncommunity water systems have at least one certified operator.

## *How many Washington water systems are affected?*

About 2,000 community water systems serving less than 100 connections, and nontransient, noncommunity water systems, will be required to have certified operators, when in the past most of them did not.

## *When must a newly affected system have a certified operator?*

The department will be working with newly affected water systems throughout the rest of 2000 to assist them in meeting new requirements. Our goal is to have the majority on record as meeting the new requirements by the end of this year. All affected systems must be in compliance when new state regulations become effective in early 2001.

## *How does an uncertified operator get certified?*

There are two options:

- Owners of newly affected systems may request that one existing operator be "grandparented."
- Operators can apply for certification under existing procedures, which include meeting minimum education and experience criteria and passing an exam.

## *What is grandparenting?*

EPA, recognizing that many competent small system operators may not meet the initial requirements to become certified, gave states the option to allow grandparenting. Grandparented

operators will not have to take an exam to become certified, but will have to meet the professional growth requirement for the 2001-2003 reporting period. (See page 7 for more details)

## *How does an operator become grandparented?*

In October owners of eligible water systems will receive grandparenting application information in the mail and have the opportunity to choose an existing operator whom they wish to have grandparented.

## *What is an eligible system?*

Most newly affected systems will be eligible for grandparenting, provided they submit the application on time. The only systems not eligible for grandparenting are those in violation of an order or agreement, and those that have had a penalty imposed in the past five years.

## *How many grandparented operators can there be?*

One per system. However, water systems may elect to voluntarily certify more than one operator under the regular application and examination procedure.

## *What must grandparented operators do to remain certified?*

They must renew their certification every year and provide evidence of meeting the professional growth

requirement by December 31, 2003 and every three years thereafter.

## *If I go to work for a different water system, is my grandparented certification still valid?*

No, it is not transferable. Grandparented certifications are only valid for up to two systems designated at the time of grandparenting.

## *What is the "professional growth requirement"?*

The professional growth requirement ensures certified operators maintain and upgrade their knowledge and skills in water system operation. Certified operators meet the requirement by taking training or examinations. (See page 7)

## *How will newly certified operators know what they need to do to meet the professional growth requirement?*

Upon achieving certification, each operator will receive information from the Washington Environmental Training Center (WETRC) detailing their options for professional growth.

## *Who keeps track of professional growth records?*

Under contract with the Department of Health, WETRC maintains these records. If you have any questions about professional growth, please call WETRC at 253-288-3369 or toll-free at 1-800-562-0858.

## *How much does it cost to get certified?*

Initial costs will be minimal. The Department of Health is helping make the transition to expanded operator certification easier by paying some routine fees, and offering free and low-cost training to meet professional growth requirements. (See page 5 for details) In the future, however, without continued financial support from the federal government, this program will largely be supported by fees charged directly to water systems and operators.



## Options available to newly affected water systems

In early 2001, new state regulations will require all Group A community and nontransient noncommunity (NTNC) water systems to have a certified operator in responsible charge of their daily operations.

Affected water systems have several options for meeting this requirement:

- Grandparent an existing operator, if system is eligible; (see page 6)
- Have an existing operator become certified at the proper level by meeting education and experience requirements and passing an exam;
- Hire an already certified operator;
- Contract for services with a contract operator or an approved Satellite Management Agency (SMA).

*For more information or to request lists of contract operators or approved SMAs designated to serve certain areas of the state, call the toll-free Operator Certification Hotline at 1-800-525-2536.*



## How to Become a Contract Operator

Many small water systems trying to meet new operator certification requirements will seek the services of contract operators.

Contract operators are those who serve as the certified operator for three or more water systems. They must at a minimum be certified as Water Distribution Manager 1 (WDM1) and Cross Connection Control Specialist (CCS). Other classifications may be needed depending upon the specific systems involved. Contract operators must be available 24-hours per day. Contract operators must provide copies of all signed operations contracts to the Department of Health within 30 days of the effective date of the contracts.

The department keeps a list of certified operators interested in providing contract services to water systems. Contact the department if you are a certified operator who wants to be included on the list.

For more information, call the toll-free Operator Certification Hotline at 1-800-525-2536.

## New Operator Certification Requirements in a Nutshell

New operator certification requirements are among many new regulations resulting from 1996 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

In Washington, the new regulations require at least one certified operator for about 2,000 additional Group A community water systems (mainly groundwater systems serving less than 100 connections) and in nontransient noncommunity (NTNC) systems. (Currently certified operators are required only in community systems that have 100 or more connections, or those with less than 100 connections that are "significant non-compliers" or those drawing water from surface water or groundwater under the influence of surface water.)

Some of the newly-required certified operators may become certified through the current process of applying, meeting education and experience criteria, and passing an exam, while others may be grandparented.

Our goal is to have most water systems on record meeting the new requirements by the end of 2000. All affected systems must be in compliance when new state regulations are adopted early in 2001.



# Department Supports New Requirements with a Variety of Assistance

Recognizing that new operator certification requirements will present water systems and individual operators with challenges during the next few years, the Department of Health is helping in four main ways:

## Paying fees for small systems and operators

Using federal funding provided to support expanded operator certification, the department will pay certain fees on behalf of newly affected water systems and their operators as well as for the mandatory operators of systems serving less than 3,300 people, as shown in the table at right.

	\$83.00 Annual System Certification Fee for 2001	\$55.00 Application Fee, one time only	\$30.00 Exam Fee, one time only	\$27.00 Renewal Fee, for 2001, 2002, and 2003
<i>Water systems newly affected by operator certification requirements</i>	<i>Fee paid by DOH</i>			
<i>Existing mandatory certified operators working for systems serving less than 3,300 people</i>		<i>No Application Needed</i>	<i>No Exam Needed</i>	<i>Fee paid by DOH</i>
<i>Newly required certified operators, grandparented</i>		<i>Fee paid by DOH</i>	<i>No Exam Needed</i>	<i>Fee paid by DOH</i>
<i>Newly required certified operators, not grandparented</i>		<i>Fee paid by DOH</i>	<i>Fee paid by DOH</i>	<i>Fee paid by DOH</i>

## Offering orientation, training and technical assistance

The department will hold five open houses throughout the state in early 2001 to provide information and answer questions about the certification requirements.

In addition, the department will offer a variety of free and low-cost training during the next several years to help operators meet professional growth requirements. Some of this training will be provided by department staff and some by contractors. Much of it will be offered in local areas, requiring a minimum of travel for most attendees.

## Supporting use of contract operators and SMAs

The department keeps referral lists and other materials to help water systems find qualified contract operators and Satellite Management Agencies if they choose to use such services to meet new requirements. We also will provide assistance to individuals who want to become contract operators.

## Providing ongoing communication

This issue of Water Tap is just the beginning. During the coming months and years, we will develop more tools to help purveyors and operators keep up-to-date on all the latest news, training opportunities, and other developments for certified operators. If you have questions or suggestions about the kinds of information needed, please contact the department's Operator Certification Hotline at 1-800-525-2536.

# Grandparenting Explained

## Grandparenting helps systems certify existing operators

“Grandparenting” is a process allowed by EPA guidelines in recognition that many competent small system operators may not initially meet the requirements to be certified.

Washington’s proposed regulations allow water systems to grandparent an existing operator. One existing operator per system may be allowed to be grandparented for the minimum classification of the water system. Grandparenting decisions will be made by the department based on system compliance history. To qualify for grandparenting, a system must not be in violation of any active bilateral compliance agreement, state order or federal order, and not have had a Notice

of Imposition of Penalty issued in the last five years under current ownership.

Grandparented operators will not have to take an exam to become certified. They will have to co-sign an application for grandparenting along with the water system owner/official, and they will have to meet requirements for professional growth and annual certification renewal. The grandparented operator must have been working for the system before the effective date of the regulations. Grandparented certification is site-specific and not transferable. Grandparented operators may operate a maximum of two systems (Anyone operating three or more systems is a contract operator, for whom there are additional requirements under existing regulations. See page 4)

For more information on grandparenting, call the Operator Certification Hotline at 1-800-525-2536.

### Grandparenting applications mailed to water systems in October

The Department of Health will mail application materials in October to all water systems eligible to grandparent an existing operator. Please return your application as quickly as possible to ensure a timely decision on your grandparenting request.

Also in October, the department will send letters to all systems that are not eligible for grandparenting because of current violations or past penalties, telling them what they will have to do to meet new certification requirements. (See article on options, page 4.)

## Safe Drinking Water, Healthy Communities: Seminars provide tips, trends and tidbits

Learn more about keeping drinking water safe! Join the Department of Health and the Washington Environmental Training Center (WETRC) at a one-day seminar: *Safe Drinking Water, Healthy Communities*.

October 31 ~ Olympia

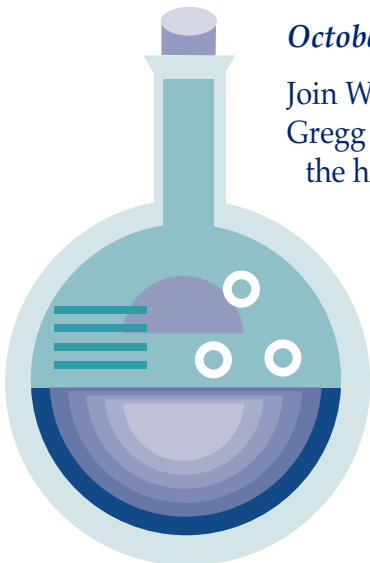
November 2 ~ Everett

November 7 ~ Yakima

Join Washington State Health Officer Dr. Maxine Hayes, Drinking Water Division Director Gregg Grunenfelder and others to learn about the importance of safe drinking water for the health of our communities and your role in keeping it safe.

This seminar is designed for water system operators, managers, owners and public works staff responsible for compliance with Washington drinking water regulations. It will also benefit local health department personnel or anyone interested in learning up-to-date information about drinking water issues.

Register now! Call WETRC at 1-800-562-0858 in Washington. Others call 253-833-9111, ext. 3369. 0.6 CEU available for this seminar.



# Certified Operators Update Their Skills Through Requirements for Professional Growth

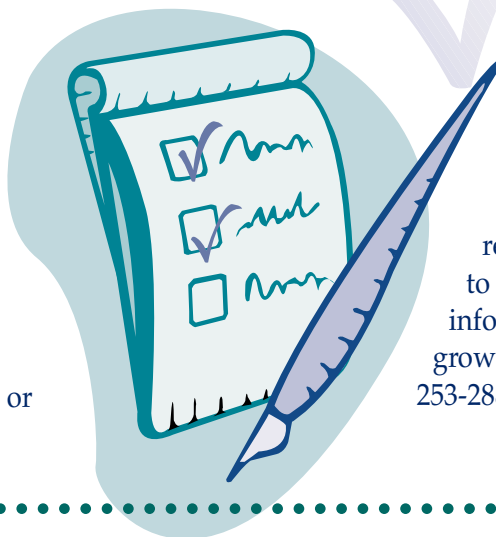
As water system operation becomes more complex, certified operators must maintain and upgrade their knowledge and skills to protect the health of their customers. This is accomplished by meeting the Department of Health's professional growth requirement.

Certified operators have three ways to meet the professional growth requirement for certification renewal:

1. Accumulate a minimum of three Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or college credits for training that is

directly relevant to the operation, maintenance or management of a water system and which has an influence on water quality, public health or environmental protection.

2. Advance by examination in the Water Works Operator Certification Program to a Level 2, 3 or 4.
3. Achieve certification by examination in a different classification (see information below left for details).



The Department of Health contracts with the Washington Environmental Training Center (WETRC) at Green River

Community College in Auburn to maintain the professional growth records and evaluate and assign CEUs to relevant training. For further information about the professional growth requirement, contact WETRC at 253-288-3369 or toll-free at 1-800-525-2536.

## Advancing to Another Classification: Current and future options

Certified operators can meet the professional growth requirement by passing an examination and advancing to certain other classifications. When new operator certification regulations are adopted in 2001, those opportunities will be expanded. The new options are shown in bold below.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
WDM	WTPO, BTO, CCS
WTPO	WDM, CCS
WDS	WDM, WTPO, BTO, CCS
BTO	WDM, WTPO, WDS, CCS
CCS	WDM, WTPO, BTO, WDS

BTO: Basic Treatment Operator

CCS: Cross Connection Control Specialist

WDM: Water Distribution Manager

WDS: Water Distribution Specialist

WTPO: Water Treatment Plant Operator

For more information, call the Operator Certification Hotline toll-free at 1-800-525-2536.

## Training available to meet professional growth requirement

Washington is fortunate to have many organizations offering training in many formats, locations and price ranges, to help certified operators meet professional growth requirements. Options include workshops, seminars, conferences, college courses, correspondence courses, and distance learning via the internet.

The Department of Health keeps a training calendar that is published quarterly in Water Tap. (see page 8 and 9) It provides information about drinking-water-related classes and events state-wide, as well as information about various organizations to contact for more training information. The training calendar also is posted on the department's homepage at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>



To register call these contacts...

### **ERWOW**

Evergreen Rural Water  
of Washington  
509-962-6326

### **WETRC**

Washington Environmental  
Training Center  
253-288-336

### **PNWS-AWWA**

Pacific Northwest Section  
American Water Works  
Association

Judy Grycko  
1-877-767-2992

Keith Olson  
425-255-6370

### **WSEHA**

Washington State  
Environmental Health  
Association

Kathy Kimsey  
425-334-5399

Roger Nottage  
253-848-5519

## Training and Education Calendar October 2000 - June 2001

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Oct 24	2nd Annual Cross Connection Seminar	Fife	Roger Nottage
Oct 24	Chlorination Basics*	Kelso	ERWOW
Oct 24-26	Basic Electrical	Tacoma	WETRC
Oct 25	Chlorination Basics*	Everett	ERWOW
Oct 27	AC Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC
Oct 31	Drinking Water Seminar 2000: <i>Safe Drinking Water, Healthy Communities</i>	Olympia	WETRC
Nov 1	Chlorination Basics*	Moses Lake	ERWOW
Nov 2	Drinking Water Seminar 2000: <i>Safe Drinking Water, Healthy Communities</i>	Everett	WETRC
Nov 7	Drinking Water Seminar 2000: <i>Safe Drinking Water, Healthy Communities</i>	Yakima	WETRC
Nov 14-15	Process Control and Instrumentation	Tacoma	WETRC
Nov 16	Automatic Control Valve Op & Maint	Kirkland	Keith Olson
Nov 28	Automatic Control Valves*	DuPont	ERWOW
Nov 30	Automatic Control Valves*	Port Angeles	ERWOW
Dec 5	Automatic Control Valves*	Pullman	ERWOW
Dec 7	Automatic Control Valves*	Wenatchee	ERWOW
Dec 8	AC Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC
Dec 8	Groundwater Issues	Tacoma	Judy Grycko
Dec 13-15	Basic Water Works	Tacoma	WETRC
Dec 14	Basic Water Works for Clerical Personnel	Kirkland	Keith Olson
Jan 3-5	Water Distribution Cert. Examination Review	Auburn	WETRC
Jan 9	Consumer Confidence Reports*	Everett	ERWOW
Jan 10-12	Cross Connection Control Specialist Cert. Review	Auburn	WETRC
Jan 11	Consumer Confidence Reports*	Chehalis	ERWOW
Jan 16	Operator Certification Examination Review*	Port Angeles	ERWOW
Jan 16-18	Water Distribution Cert. Examination Review	Everett	WETRC
Jan 17	Operator Certification Examination Review*	Kelso	ERWOW
Jan 18	Consumer Confidence Reports*	Spokane	ERWOW
Jan 19	Consumer Confidence Reports*	Wenatchee	ERWOW
Jan 23	Operator Certification Examination Review*	Othello	ERWOW
Jan 24	Operator Certification Examination Review*	Chelan	ERWOW
Jan 24-26	Basic Electrical	Everett	WETRC
Feb 13-15	Pump Operation and Maintenance	Everett	WETRC
Feb 13-15	Evergreen Rural Water of WA Annual Conference	Yakima	ERWOW
Feb 21-22	Process Control and Instrumentation	Auburn	WETRC
Feb 23	Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC
Mar 21-22	Water Treatment and BTO Cert. Exam Review	Yakima	WETRC
Apr 3-4	Process Control and Instrumentation	Everett	WETRC
Apr 10-12	Basic Water Works	Yakima	WETRC
Apr 17-19	Water Distribution Cert. Examination Review	Yakima	WETRC
Apr 17-19	Pump Operation and Maintenance	Richland	WETRC
Apr 17-19	Basic Electrical	Auburn	WETRC
Apr 20	Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC
Apr 25-27	WSEHA Annual Education Conference	Yakima	Kathy Kimsey
Apr 25-27	Basic Water Works	Everett	WETRC
May 1-3	Water Distribution Cert. Examination Review	Everett	WETRC
May 2-4	PNWS American Water Works Assoc. Annual Conf.	Yakima	Judy Grycko



## Training and Education Calendar October 2000 - June 2001

May 8-10	Cross Connection Control Specialist Cert. Review	Everett	WETRC
May 15-17	Water Distribution Cert. Examination Review	Yakima	WETRC
May 22-24	Cross Connection Control Specialist Cert. Review	Richland	WETRC
May 23-25	Basic Electrical	Yakima	WETRC
Jun 5-7	Pump Operation and Maintenance	Auburn	WETRC
Jun 8	Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC
Jun 12-13	Process Control and Instrumentation	Yakima	WETRC

Not all classes listed meet operator certification professional growth relevancy requirements. Check with class provider for CEU information.

### Additional Training Links:

PNWS-AWWA Website - <http://www.pnws-awwa.org/index.htm>

ERWOW Website - <http://www.ERWOW.org>

WETRC Website - <http://www.ivygreen.ctc.edu/wetrc>

WSEHA Website - <http://www.wseha.org/>

*\*Indicates  
training is less  
than \$25.00*

**For the up-to-date Training Calendar visit the Drinking Water  
Homepage & click on Training - [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw)**

## Tap Tips - Distance Learning: On-Line Computer and Correspondence Courses

There are a number of ways to increase your knowledge or meet education needs. Some traditional routes include the school of hard knocks (real-life experience), formal school (remember those hard chairs and cramming for tests?), and workshops (more hard chairs and travel to unexotic distant places).

Other ways of learning, sometimes called "distance learning," may not be as up close and personal but allow you to learn at your own pace in the comfort of your home or office. Correspondence or on-line computer courses may be available if you need college credit or continuing education units (CEU) to satisfy professional growth requirements for your operator certification or other professional licenses.

### Advantages of distance learning:

- Saves time
- No parking or travel hassles
- Solves scheduling difficulties
- Student-centered learning

**Important Note:** If you are a certified operator and want to use the training to apply to your professional growth requirement, check with Washington Environmental Training Center (WETRC) at 253-288-3369 or 1-800-562-0858 before investing your time and money.

Many colleges, as well as a few professional organizations, are expanding into this arena. Contact your favorite college or check the following web sites to begin exploring distance learning opportunities:

#### AWWA Online Institute

<http://awwa.advanceonline.com>

*For example, AWWA recently offered a course on coagulation, flocculation and sedimentation basics.*

#### Green River Community College

Water/Wastewater Program  
[www.ivygreen.ctc.edu/wawa/](http://www.ivygreen.ctc.edu/wawa/)

*For example, Green River recently offered a water treatment class.*

#### California State University,

Office of Water Programs  
[www.owp.csus.edu](http://www.owp.csus.edu)

*Offers five water-related correspondence courses.*



# The Fine Print: Authority for new operator certification requirements

Washington's Water Works Operator Certification regulation, Chapter 246-292 WAC, establishes the requirements for certified operators for all Group A community water systems serving 100 or more connections and systems whose sources of supply are surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water (GWI).

Washington's program was authorized by the state Legislature in 1977.

In 1997, the Legislature amended RCW 70.119.060 and expanded the Department of Health's authority to require certified operators, by rule or otherwise, for significant noncompliers (SNCs), and all Group A water systems providing treatment other than simple disinfection. The Legislature also authorized the department to require certified operators for all Group A systems as necessary to conform to federal law or implementing rules or guidelines.

The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) require states to develop operator certification programs that comply with EPA guidelines or lose a significant portion of federal funding. The SDWA also requires states to adopt strategies to assure that water systems have the technical ability to operate in compliance with requirements. Washington's strategy, approved by EPA

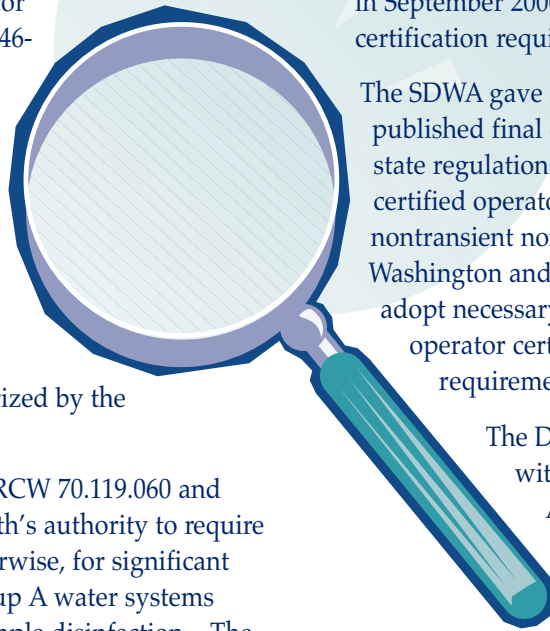
in September 2000, includes full implementation of operator certification requirements.

The SDWA gave states two years from the time EPA published final operator certification guidelines to adopt state regulations. The new guidelines require states to have certified operators for all Group A community and nontransient noncommunity (NTNC) water systems. Washington and other states have until February 2001 to adopt necessary regulations and begin implementing operator certification programs that meet the requirements of the federal guidelines.

The Department of Health has worked closely with the Water Works Operator Certification Advisory Committee, the Small Water System Advisory Committee and other stakeholder groups during the past two years to develop proposed language for

revised state operator certification regulations (WAC 246-292). The proposed revisions will be filed with the State Code Reviser in mid-October and once filed will be available on the drinking water homepage at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>. They will be the subject of public hearings planned for December (see page 1) and are expected to be final early in 2001.

For more information about operator certification requirements and the process for adopting new state regulations, call the Operator Certification Hotline at 1-800-525-2536.



## Draft Funding List Out for Public Review

The Washington State Department of Health and the Washington State Public Works Board are pleased to announce the availability of the "Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Draft Amended Intended Use Plan For Fourth Year Federal Capitalization Grant" for review and comment.

The Draft Amended Intended Use Plan is the state's request for project loan funds. It provides information on the status of the state revolving fund, covers how the state will process and allocate \$28.2 million in the project fund, describes the criteria used in determining capital project loan eligibility and prioritization, and provides the prioritized project list.

Comments on the Draft Amended Intended Use Plan will be accepted until October 23, 2000.

The draft is available for review on the Division of Drinking Water website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw> at the Washington State Law Library, or by request from our office by calling 1-800-521-0323.

For more information or to send comments, contact Chris Gagnon, Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water, P.O. Box 47822, Olympia, WA 98504-7822.

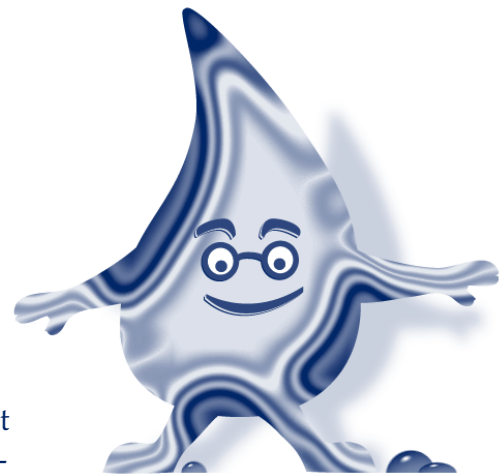
# DR. DRIP

Dear Dr. Drip,

I've been "volunteering" on the water system that serves my house for 20 years. During that time I discovered Water Tap and I've become a fan of yours. I generally find that the information and advice in your newsletter is accurate and useful. I do, however, take strong exception to what I've been hearing and reading about these new certified operator requirements.

"Certified" operator? "Ongoing" education requirements? "Experienced, well-trained" operators? Give me a break. I am experienced and well trained! I've run my system without any problems or need for certification for the past 20 years. With all due respect, good doctor, I doubt that anyone has made you go back to school since you graduated from college eons ago.

Smooth Operator



Dear Smooth,

*The easy answer is that the feds are requiring it and we'd all lose a lot of resources if we didn't comply, so quit complaining, and do as your told. But I won't give you that answer, because it would probably cause you to cancel your subscription to Water Tap.*

*The hard truth is that our world is changing and we need to change with it. Water system operation is a demanding and critical job, affecting the health of those who drink the water every day. It has been well documented, both nationally and in Washington state, that smaller systems are the most likely to be vulnerable to outbreaks of waterborne illness because they sometimes can't meet safe drinking water requirements. It has also been demonstrated that operator certification correlates strongly with lowered detection of coliform in drinking water.*

*I don't doubt that you've done a good job for 20 years, like a lot of other uncertified operators. But think about how technology has changed in just the last few years. Think about how the list of things we have to monitor for has ballooned-not just because of regulations, but because there are more sources of potential contaminants, and more kinds of contaminants all the time.*

*Look around at your environment. Are there more people, more roads, more buildings, more industry? If not, tell me where you live and I just may move there. Or, on second thought, you'll probably want to keep your secret to yourself.*

*Most of us in Washington state have seen dramatic changes in the recent past, and there's every indication that the pace of change is going to keep accelerating. To keep up with it, in a complex field like water system operation, we need to help each other out and keep on top of new developments. I hope you find that these new "requirements" are really more of an opportunity than a burden, and that they allow you to keep doing a great job in the future.*

# Division of Drinking Water On The Move!

## Northwest Regional Office moves to Kent

The Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water Northwest Regional Office moved from downtown Seattle to Kent at the end of September.

New telephone number: 253-395-6750

New FAX number: 253-395-6760

### Mailing Address:

Department of Health  
Division of Drinking Water  
Northwest Regional Office  
20435-72nd Avenue South, Suite 200, K17-12  
Kent, WA 98032

Location: Located in Kent just off the West Valley Highway and 204th St., in the CenterPoint Corporate Park, Creekside 3 Building, Suite 200.

Additional information and a map are available on the Division of Drinking Water website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>



## In This Issue

The following people have contributed to the production of this issue of the Water Tap: Peggy Barton (Washington Environmental Training Center), Lisa Raysby, Cheryl Bergener, Steve Kelso, Ronni Woolrich, Gregg Grunenfelder, Janice Keller, Judy Jones, Judy Sides and Peter Beaton.

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<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>

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for Drinking Water  
Emergencies**  
Call this number after-hours  
toll free 1-877-481-4901  
when a problem:  
• Threatens the health of your  
customers or the integrity of  
your system;  
• Can't wait until the next  
business day.



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